(d) whether Government propose to give more incentives to improve the working conditions for scientists in Government labs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) The Government has provided enhanced level of funding during the previous years for research and development activities in the scientific labs and this enhanced funding will continue in the 11th five year plan also. Additionally new programmes in thrust areas like nano-technology, setting up of centres of excellence for advanced materials research, translational research in the area of biotechnology etc. have been initiated. It is a fact that the personnel trained in S&T has increased. However, the number of S&T trained manpower participating directly in R&D for generation of new knowledge has stagnated. This could be attributed to lucrative opportunities available in other sectors and social pressures. The Government is also providing grants for up- gradation of research infrastructure in universities and academic institutions for research and teaching. Government has also plans to provide support for research infrastructure in undergraduate colleges during the 11th Plan. The Government has already provided incentives through increased research fellowships and associate-ships and has also announced J.C. Bose and Ramanujan Fellowships for performing scientists.

Attrition of scientists

148. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of scientists are frustrated and desert to private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that their talent and knowledge is not wasted?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, there are sporadic cases of movement of scientists from Government Research Institutions to Private Sector, due to various reasons including better financial and career opportunities.

(c) Government from time to time have taken several measures to encourage research scientists by providing various incentives. These include:

- Induction of new and attractive fellowships;
- Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science;
- Creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations;
- Increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in successive Five Year Plan;
- Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies/incubation centres in the universities, academic institutions and laboratories;
- Provision of sharing the external earnings with the scientists or innovator and its periodic revision in terms of IPR, Contract Research & Consultancy;
- S&T based training for entrepreneurial development;
- Manpower development training/re-training programmes through associate-ships/ fellowships;

- Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S&T;
- Fast Track Scheme for Young Scientists;
- Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology (BOYSCAST) fellowship to visit international laboratories and institutions;
- Contact programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take up R&D as a career;
- Scientists are given financial assistance to participate in international conferences and training programmes abroad;
- Early Faculty Induction Programme, which aims at attracting bright and young undergraduate students in Engineering and Technology/Pharmacy/Architecture, etc. to take as their career.

Testing of Solverter

†149. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) have tested Solverter;

(b) whether it is proposed to be patented;

(c) the target of production of Solverter on commercial scale; and

(d) the purposes for which Solverter would be utilized in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reservation for physically challenged persons

150. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation for physically challenged persons is not strictly compiled with; and

(b) if so, the action taken to ensure its compliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation in vacancies in Govt. establishments, educational institutions and in poverty alleviation schemes. The concerned Ministries in the Central Govt. and State Governments/UT Administrations implemented the provisions of the Act.

To ensure compliance of various provisions of the Act, the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at the Centre and State Commissioners monitors the implementation.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.